

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 380

By Reedy

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Philip and Debra Beech upon
being named the 2014 Tennessee Tree Farmers
of the Year.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our State who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, two such individuals are Philip and Debra Beech of Humphreys County, who were recently recognized by the Tennessee Forestry Association as the State's 2014 Tree Farmers of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the Beeches come from a long line of forest managers and, in 2006, they embarked upon their own legacy of forest management when they purchased a 1,837-acre property in Humphreys and Houston counties; and

WHEREAS, Philip and Debra Beech purchased more land in 2010, increasing the size of the forest over which they hold stewardship to 2,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, over the past nine years, Mr. and Mrs. Beech have cultivated their forest with care and concern while working closely with their Tennessee area forester and NRCS. They have created a number of supplemental wildlife food plots planted in clover and other winter plants, converted overgrown pastureland into quail habitats, built fire lines around stands of pine, conducted prescribed burns on a rotational basis, replanted a clear-cut section of more than sixty acres with pine seedlings, planted a chestnut tree orchard, and stabilized a section of the stream bank along the White Oak Creek in an effort to prevent soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, the Beeches have also taken steps to correct earlier mismanagement, regenerating certain areas in desirable hardwoods and creating early successional habitat, and they have donated a sizable portion of this area to the University of Tennessee, which is using the land as a hardwood research project; and

WHEREAS, keen to share the natural beauty of their land, the Beeches have hosted two field days for the Houston/Humphreys County Forestry Association, horse club rides on trails throughout the woods, and many visits for friends and family, which feature fishing, hunting, swimming, and hiking; and

WHEREAS, Philip and Debra Beech are the fitting recipients of Tennessee's 2014 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year award, and their commitment to responsible stewardship of the land is most assuredly deserving of special recognition by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Philip and Debra Beech upon being named the 2014 Tree Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association and thank them for their dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources — our forestland and wildlife habitat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.